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6. GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE *AQUILA CLANGA* PALLAS AND NORTHERN SHOVELLER *ANAS CLYPEATA* LINN. — TWO RARE RECORDS FROM KERALA

On January 11, 2001, while conducting the waterfowl census at the Kattampally wetlands near Kannur, a Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* was seen. The raptor was observed for almost one hour, in good light, as it soared overhead. It was a dark brown bird having broad wings with splayed out primaries, underwing-coverts darker than the flight feathers, white spots on the upperwing forming a thin wingbar and white uppertail-coverts. These features suggested that the bird was an immature. The author is familiar with this species with many sightings at Bharatpur. Kattampally is one of the major wetlands of Kerala and hosts large congregations of migratory and resident water-fowl. On November 20, 1998, the author along with N.K. Satyan had seen a soaring *Aquila* eagle being mobbed by a Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*, but specific identification was not possible as the raptor was too far away.

The only published record of the Greater Spotted Eagle in Kerala is a single undated sighting by Srivastava *et al.* (1995), quoted by BirdLife International (2001).

At Kattampally, on March 27, 2001, 4 male Northern Shovellers *Anas clypeata* were spotted by P.C. Rajeevan and the author among a group of more than 500 Garganey *Anas querquedula* and Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*.

An early record of this species from Kerala is that of a specimen received by A.O. Hume from Wynaad (Kinneer and Whistler 1930).

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